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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SY-05 CPR-01 OES-07 /072 W
----------023326 010437Z /15
R 311435Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3945
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: TGEN, PINS, ASEC, PDIP, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR SPECIALIZED BILATERALS: ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET SECURITY ORGANS

REF: MOSCOW 15669

1. SUMMARY SEVERAL INCIDENTS THIS MONTH MAY INDICATE AN INCREASE IN INTERFERENCE BY SOVIET SECURITY ORGANS IN U.S. DELEGATION VISITS UNDER SPECIALIZED BILATERAL PROGRAMS. THE EMBASSY IS PROTESTING SUCH INCIDENTS AS THEY OCCUR. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONSULT WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF THE AGREEMENTS AND THE NAS TO INSURE THAT WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN, DELEGATION LEADERS AND OTHER EXCHANGEES ARE AWARE OF BASIC PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN WHILE TRAVELING TN THE SOVIET UNION, AND STEPS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN SHOULD PROVOCATION OR HARRASSMENT BY SECURITY ORGANS TAKE PLACE. END SUMMARY

2. PARTICULARLY HEAVY-HANDED BEHAVIOUR BY SOVIET SECURITY ORGANS DURING ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINARS TAKING

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PLACE IN YEREVAN AND TASHKENT THIS MONTH (REFTEL) POINT UP THE NEED FOR INCREASED AWARENESS BY U.S. DELEGATIONS AND SCIENCE VISITORS OF BASIC PRECAUTIONS, AND MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN SHOULD INCIDENTS ARISE INVOLVING SOVIET SECURITY AGENTS. THE EMBASSY IS PREPARING A PACKET OF UNCLASSIFIED MATERIAL FOR DISTRIBUTION TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES AND THE NAS

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FOR USE IN BRIEFING OF U.S. DELEGATIONS AND EXCHANGEES.
IN THE MEANTIME WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORHWHILE THAT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES REMIND DELEGATIONS BEFORE
DEPARTURE FROM U.S. OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) LUGGAGE, BRIEFCASES, ETC. LEFT IN HOTEL OR MEETING
ROOMS UNATTENDED ARE VERY LIKELY TO BE SEARCHED.
DELEGATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO BRING ANY SENSITIVE
MATERIALS TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH THEM. IF SUCH ARE
NECESSARY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THEIR BUSINESS, THEY SHOULD
BE KEPT IN SAFE STORAGE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY.
(B) HOTEL AND CONFERENCE ROOMS AND TELPHONES ARE
USUALLY BUGGED. HOTEL ROOMS MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO
OPTICLA SURVEILLANCE. NO SENSITIVE CONVERSATIONS
SHOULD BE HELD BY TELEPHONE OR IN THESE AREAS.
(C) BEWARE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO SUDDENLY TURN UP AT
CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA WHO BECOME OVERLY CHUMMY
AND ATTMEPT TO PLY U.S. VISITORS WITH DRINKS. DECLINE
INVITATIONS BY SUCH INDIVIDUALS OR ATTRACTIVE FEMALE
ACCOMPLICES TO "PRIVATE PARTIES" IN HOTEL ROOMS, ETC.
(D) REFUSE ALL OFFERS INVOLVING CURRENCY EXCHANGE,
SALES OF ANTIQUES OR OTHER ACTIVITIES ILLEGAL UNDER
SOVIET LAW. DO NOT TAKE WITH YOU ANY LITERATURE WHICH
MIGHT BE CONSIDERED "ANTI-SOVIET", AND DO NOT ACCEPT
FROM SOVIETS ALLEGEDLY CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS OR
MATERIALS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO U.S.
(E) SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE
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REPORTED TO DELEGATION LEADERS OR EMBASSY OFFICER
ACCOMPANYING DELEGATIONS.
(F) SHOULD OVERT ATTEMPT AT SUBVERSION OCCUR REMAIN
CALM, IMMEDIATELY INFORM DELEGATION LEADER AND THE U.S.
EMBASSY, BY TELEPHONE IF NECESSARY.

3. IN MAKING THE ABOVE POINTS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES
SHOULD ALSO STRESS THAT WE DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO
DISCOURAGE INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS. INDEED,
THE OVERALL THRUST OF THE SPECIALIZED BILATERALS
IS QUITE THE REVERSE. OUTRIGHT PROVOCATIONS ARE
RARE; AND NOT ALL MOVES TAKEN BY SOVIET HOSTS SHOULD
BE REGARDED AS SUSPICIOUS. SOVIETS FOR EXAMPLE ARE
GENERALLY MORE GIVEN TO DRINKING AND TOASTING THAN
AMERICANS. MODERATION AND GOOD JUDGEMENT ARE
NECESSARY TO DETERMINE WHERE GENUINE CULTURAL
DIFFERENCES LEAVE OFF AND OVERT PROVOCATION BEGINS.

4. WHILE THE RECORD HAS CONSISTENTLY IMPROVED OVER
THE PAST YEAR, THERE ARE STILL NUMEROOUS INSTANCES
WHERE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF DELEGATIONS ARRIVAL
OR ITINERARY IN THE SOVIET UNION. FOR THE

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DELEGATIONS' OWN PROTECTION, AND TO ENABLE THE
EMBASSY TO PLAY ITS PROPER ROLE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES
MUST ENSURE THAT THE EMBASSY IS PROPERLY INFORMED OF
DELEGATIONS' TRAVEL PLANS. DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE
ADVISED TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY, AT LEAST TELEPHONICALLY,
UPON ARRIVAL. DEBRIEFINGS BEFORE DEPARTURE ARE ALSO
EXTREMELY USEFUL AND WILL INSURE THAT ANY
PROVOCATION AND HARRASSMENT THAT OCCURS DURING VISITS
WILL BE IMMEDIATELY PROTESTED AT THE APPROPRIATE
LEVEL. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, ENVIRONMENT, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW15860
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770401-0277
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977103/aaaaabzr.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c393db28-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 15669
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 817136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR SPECIALIZED BILATERALS: ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET SECURITY ORGANS
TAGS: TGEN, PINS, ASEC, PDIP, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c393db28-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009